

NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #52 - POSTED 05/06/92

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. The electronic version of newslines is posted on this CBBS twice monthly.

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Thank You
NEWSLINE

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Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB5KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU DJ0QN and
many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

[768]

STING

The FCC has announced that Orders to Show and Suspension Orders have been issued against the amateur licenses of Sandra V. Crane, N6TF0, and Charles P. Pascal, WB6CIY arising from what the Commission terms alleged examination irregularities involving students at their California Amateur Radio School located in Los Angeles.

Specifically, the FCC makes three allegations against Crane and Pascal. These are:

(1) It appears the respondents Sandra V. Crane and Charles P. Pascal were the operators of the California Amateur Radio School in Los Angeles California at all times pertinent to the proceeding. Further, it appears that Pascal and Crane both gave instruction to students of the school prior to the administration on August 4 1991, August 24 1991 and September 14 1991 of Amateur Service License Examinations. Last, it appears that respondents, prior to the administration of the examinations, had information that they used to tailor the content of their instruction at the school to include answers to all or most of the questions that would later be part of the examinations, while excluding from instruction the answers to most questions that would not be part of the examinations. This last described action by the respondents constitutes an apparent willful and repeated violation of Section 97.17(E) of the Commissions Rules.

(2) That Sandra V. Crane willfully and repeatedly violated Section 97.17(E), 97.515(D) and 97.517 of the Commissions Rules by administering Amateur Service license examinations to her own daughter, Tracy L. Gullotti on November 12, 1990, January 6, 1991 and April 12, 1991.

(3) That Charles P. Pascal by co-administering the November 12, 1990 examination of Tracy L. Gullotti did willfully violate Section 97.17(E) and 97.517 of the Commissions Rules.

The action against Crane and Pascal's amateur licenses comes as a direct result of a far reaching 'sting' operation last summer by members of the ARRL's Los Angeles Amateur Auxiliary working closely with FCC investigatory personnel. It was a ham on ham investigation where decoy students equipped with recording devices were sent into numerous Los Angeles area ham radio training facilities including the California Amateur Radio School.

This is believed to be the first time that evidence gathered

by volunteer ham radio investigators has been directly used to penalize alleged rules violators in the all-volunteer testing system. It also marks a maturing of the Amateur Auxiliary in the eyes of the amateur community and in that of the FCC.

FCC BUSTS FREEBANDERS

Enforcement action against the so-called Freeband unlicensed operators has netted at least sixty-five illegals being located. According to FCC sources, the crackdown on the Freebanders who normally operate between 27 dot 4 and 28 MHz took place in mid-March and was nothing more than routine enforcement activity.

While it may have been routine for the FCC, it was far from that for the illegal operators caught in the enforcement web. Specifically targeted were organized Freeband groups. Those that regularly hold ham radio-like nets on the same frequency on an almost day-to-days basis. The Commission considers these operators as posing the greatest threat to the general public as sources of RFI and TVI. This they say is because such operators invariably are found to be using high power linear amplifiers. Under the new authority given Field Operations Bureaus, the fines levied against these operators could run into the 10's of thousands of dollars.

The real kicker is that several of those caught in the FCC's 'Freeband Dragnet' turned out to be licensed radio amateurs. According to Fred Maia, W5YI, at least one of those nabbed held an Extra class license and is also a volunteer examiner in the amateur radio service. For people like this the penalty could be more than just paying a huge fine. In addition to any monetary forfeitures that will be imposed, these operators also face the possibility of Administrative action to suspend or revoke their amateur licenses if the Commission decides to take such action.

The FCC has not yet released a listing of those who it collared in this crackdown on illegal 10 and a half meter operation. It says that the fines will go out first before the names of the offenders are made public.

LOS ANGELES RIOT

Several amateur radio groups are now on stand-by alert in Los Angeles as riots continue in the wake of the acquittal of four police officers in the Rodney King beating. On Wednesday April 29th, members of Los Angeles County RACES were activated to stand-by alert after violence broke out in the downtown and south central areas of the city. Also on stand-by are several ARES groups. If activated to full emergency status, you won't be

seeing hams standing on street corners with handhelds making targets of themselves. Rather, they will be dispatched to communications centers around the city to provide back-up communications for all emergency services citywide.

DAYTON '92

Spring rainstorms could not dampen the enthusiasm of more than 32,000 hams. These were the radio amateurs from around the world who descended on the mid-west city of Dayton Ohio for last weeks 1992 Hamvention.

Mother natures on again, off again torrents impacted mainly on the flea market. The storms forced most hamvention goers inside the Hara Arena, and this made dealers delight in the size of the crowd. Some sellers were even heard to remark that this was definitely the best Hamvention in years. The rains combined with the recovering United states economy to make for complete product sell outs at some booths by midday Saturday.

The inclement weather also brought large crates to the numerous forums. The most heavily attended were those dedicated to DXing, Contesting and advanced scientific experimentation. One of these, the AMSAT forum even had a special guest speaker to discuss the new Phase Three D satellite. While he could not be there in person, Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UGA addressed the group on videotape.

The Saturday night banquet also held a couple of surprises. After the various awards presentations, former NBC News Correspondent Roy Neal K6DUE captivated the audience with his keynote speech.

Roy shared the banquet spotlight with two of his close friends. By telephone, Astronaut Ron Parise WA4SIR was able to join in on the festivities while Senator Goldwater again used videotape to extend greetings to the crowd. Barry also used the occasion to invite himself to next years Hamvention.

Will Barry Goldwater get his invitation to Hamvention '93? Chairman Brown say that K7UGA's offer is being very seriously considered!

ISM

The FCC has extended the deadline for filing comments on a Notice of inquiry regarding RFI produced by industrial, scientific and medical equipment to May the 13th. The Commission says that the extension is necessary because of the many questions raised in the NOI, along with the need of getting

comprehensive input from the manufacturers of ISM equipment and also in response to a delay request from the National Electrical Manufacturers Association. The deadline for filing reply comments has also been advanced to June 15th.

DR. JUNIOR TORRES de CASTRO

Dr. Junior Torres de Castro, PY2BJ0, the creator of the Dove Microsat ham satellite has received the highest honor that the Brazilian government can bestow upon one of it's citizens. Its called the Order of Rio Branco. Dr. de Castro was recognized for his efforts during the recent STS-45 SAREX operations where he invited Brazilian school children to come to his station and ask questions of the STS-45 astronauts. PY2BJ0 received the medal and a certificate during a ceremony at the home of the Brazil's President, Fernando Collor, on April 26th. This great honor is the equivalent of knighthood in Brazil.

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